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APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **COLETTE SEYFRIED**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
GARTER FOR ITEMS OF APPAREL AND METHOD OF USE of
which the following is a specification:

GARTER FOR ITEMS OF APPAREL AND METHOD OF USE

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to cuff and sleeve retaining devices and more particularly pertains to a new garter for items of apparel and method of use for providing ornamentation to and securing an article of apparel.

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Description of the Prior Art

The use of cuff and sleeve retaining devices is known in the prior art. Illustrative examples include: U.S. Patent No. 4,825,475; U.S. Patent No. 5,787,511; U.S. Patent No. 6,158,057; U.S. Patent No. 6,175,961; and U.S. Patent No. 6,446,268.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device and method that includes both the capability of providing a decorative accent to an article of apparel, as well as being able to retain a portion of the article of apparel in a selected position.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by utilizing a variety of engagement means to selectively secure a
5 flexible band around a portion of an article of apparel.

On advantage of the present invention is a pocket member operationally coupled to an interior surface of the flexible member for selectively retaining user accessories.
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Another advantage of the present invention is a variety of engagement means for securing the flexible band to the article of apparel without damaging the article of apparel.

15 To this end, the present invention generally comprises a flexible band having an engagement means for selectively engaging an item of apparel. The flexible band is preferably conformable around an extremity of a user.

20 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better
25 appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features
30 of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with

particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

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Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a new garter for items of apparel and method of use according to the present invention utilizing a clip engagement means.

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Figure 2 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention in use.

Figure 3 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention utilizing a snap engagement means.

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Figure 4 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention utilizing a hook and loop engagement means.

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Figure 5 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention utilizing a velvet engagement means.

Figure 6 is a schematic side view of the present invention utilizing a teeth engagement means.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 6 thereof, a new garter for items of apparel and method of use embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 6, the garter for items of apparel and method of use 10 generally comprises a flexible band 20, and an engagement means 30.

Preferably the flexible band is generally round in shape to facilitate being positioned around an arm or leg of the user. The flexible band has an interior surface 22, which abuts the skin of the user, the item of apparel 2 or both. Additionally, the flexible band has an exterior surface 24 opposite of the interior surface 22.

The exterior surface 24, may include a decorative design indicia 26, or decorative objects such as rhinestones, gems, or other suitable decorative items. The exterior surface 24 may also include a decorative surface such as leather, gold, silver, or other suitable surface covering.

The engagement means 30 may be selected from a wide range of engagement devices. These devices may include, by way of illustration and not limitation, clips, snaps, hook and loop fasteners, teeth, clasps and velvet. Each of these can be successfully utilized to selectively couple the flexible band 20 to the article of apparel 2. The type of engagement means 30 selected may be determined by both the functional requirement of the

flexible band and the material comprising the article of apparel 2.
As an illustration, if the flexible band 20 is to be used to hold a
denim shirt sleeve up on the forearm or upper arm of the use, either
a clip or teeth type device may be used. As another illustration, if
5 the flexible band 20 is to be used an ornamentation around a shirt
cuff of a silk shirt, using a velvet lining on the interior surface of
the flexible band 20 may be sufficient to retain the flexible band in
the desired position without damaging the silk shirt.

10 In at least one embodiment, a pocket 28 is coupled to the
interior surface 22 of the flexible band 20 for selectively retaining
user accessories.

In a further embodiment, at least one illumination member 40,
15 may be operationally coupled to the flexible band 20.

In still a further embodiment, the exterior surface 24 is at
least translucent for facilitating visual observation of the at least
one illumination member 40.

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The flexible member 20 may be formed into a variety of
shapes for decorative purposes. One such shape anticipated by the
present invention is a snake having multiple coils for wrapping
around a pants leg.

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The flexible member may have a length sufficient for forming
a half, three-quarter, full or multiple circles around the extremity
of the user.

In at least one embodiment, the flexible member 20 comprises metal and can be retained in position with a mechanical compression around the extremity of the user.

5 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all
10 equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of
15 the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the
20 scope of the invention.